

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-15, 17, and 18 remain in the application with claims 1, 3, and 10 having been amended hereby and claims 7 and 16 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant notes the typographical error appearing in claim 3, and that error has been corrected hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-6, 8-15, 17, and 18 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Nakamura.

In paragraph 9 of the instant official action, claims 7 and 16 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended hereby to include claim 7 in its entirety. Claim 7 has been canceled.

Claim 10 has been amended hereby to include claim 16 in its entirety. Claim 16 has been canceled.

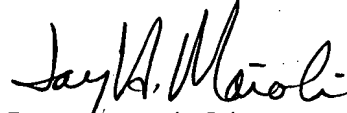
Therefore, by reason of the inclusion of the allowable subject matter in the independent claims in this application, it is respectfully submitted that all claims remaining in this application are now in condition for allowance.

The references cited as of interest have been reviewed and are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:tb